

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
U.S. Border Patrol - Del Rio Sector
2401 Dodson Avenue
Del Rio, Texas 78840



NEWS RELEASE

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25 illegal immigrants rescued from locked trailer *Group included 4 minors between 3 and 12 years of age*

DEL RIO, Texas. - U.S. Border Patrol Agents from the Abilene Border Patrol Station and Texas Department of Public Service Troopers from the Sweetwater Substation rescued 25 illegal immigrants from a locked tractor trailer traveling on Interstate 20 near Sweetwater, Texas, today.

Troopers from the Texas Department of Public Safety stopped a 1998 tractor-trailer for speeding. When they began the search of the trailer, the odor of body fluids was present, and several heads popped up from behind the items in the trailer. The troopers called in the Border Patrol Agents to determine the nationality of the 25 people.

The Border Patrol Agents determined the 17 males and 8 females had entered the United States illegally near El Paso, Texas, and had been locked in the trailer for more than 10 hours. Included in the group were two male minors, 11 and 12 years old, and two female minors, 3 and 8 years old. They were being accompanied by relatives. All appeared to be in good health, but, had no food, water or toilet facilities.

The driver of the tractor-trailer was arrested by Troopers after he was found in possession of more than 4 grams of methamphetamine and a .38 caliber pistol. He will also be charged by the Justice Department with alien smuggling. The driver was found to be in possession of more than \$9,620.00 cash, which was paid to him for transporting the illegal immigrants.

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